

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re the Application of:

Tsuneyuki TSUJI, et al.

Serial No.

Group Art Unit:

Confirmation No.

Filed: September 27, 2001

Examiner:

For: INFORMATION BROWSE SUPPORTING METHOD AND INFORMATION BROWSE  
SUPPORTING SYSTEM AND PROGRAM

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to the examination of the above-identified application, please amend the claims as follows:

The following amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

3. An information browse supporting method according to claim 1, further comprising:

a second information searching step of searching, based on the second search condition information set by a certain user with respect to other user in said second search condition information setting step, for an information element suited to this other user from the browsing target information, and checking whether or not the thus searched information element is searched by the first search condition information set in said first search condition information setting step with respect to the other user; and

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a second information presenting step of presenting to a certain user a piece of information corresponding to a searched result and a checked result with respect to a certain user ins aid second information searching step.

5. An information browse supporting method according to claim 1, wherein said second search condition information setting step involves generating the second search condition information by analyzing natural language information inputted in such a way that any one of the plurality of users specifies other user.

#### REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 3 and 5 have been amended. Claims 1-8 are pending and under consideration.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

3. An information browse supporting method according to claim 1 [or 2], further comprising:
- a second information searching step of searching, based on the second search condition information set by a certain user with respect to other user in said second search condition information setting step, for an information element suited to this other user from the browsing target information, and checking whether or not the thus searched information element is searched by the first search condition information set in said first search condition information setting step with respect to the other user; and
  - a second information presenting step of presenting to a certain user a piece of information corresponding to a searched result and a checked result with respect to a certain user ins aid second information searching step.

5. An information browse supporting method according to [any one of claims 1 through 4] claim 1, wherein said second search condition information setting step involves generating the second search condition information by analyzing natural language information inputted in such a way that any one of the plurality of users specifies other user.